

SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT Chemical Weapons in the Rumanian Army

DATE (OF INFO

DATE DISTR. 27 Apr 1954
25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE OBSOLETECTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Down to the summer of 1950 the Rumanian Army had no training in chemical warfare and no units dealing with it. In the summer of that year the Defense Ministry set up an "Army Chemical Command" (Comandamentul Chimic Al Armatei). This command was largely manned by Soviet officers and placed in charge of all factories making war chemicals and given the duty of setting up special schools for the instruction of officers of the chemical arm. 25X1
2. Such officers are attached to the "Chemical Center of the Army." The commander is General Tim Danila
3. There are three courses under the Chemical Center. The first is a training battalion for officers of the lowest grade, up to captain. The training is to instruct the officers in telling their troops how to handle chemical means of warfare. After passing through the course officers are assigned to troop units.
4. There is also a training battalion for special chemical officers. The officers in this course are of the same rank as those in that mentioned above. However, they take special instruction with a view to being used in enemy back areas. They also have a course in bacteriological warfare. Some of the students in this course are taken to the USSR for instruction.

SECRET

This report is for the use within the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be distributed outside.

[illegible]

ONLY" and the citation, if made, refers only to "CIA Source".

SECRET

-2-

5. The third training battalion is for staff officers of chemical troops. While the officers in the other two battalions receive a great deal of training on the actual handling of war chemicals, the technical courses here are less important. The instruction looks toward training officers to command chemical troops, political officers and superintendents of chemical factories. Members of this course are especially carefully screened.
6. Screening for all courses is quite thorough. It is easiest to get into the first battalion mentioned. In the other two, political attitude is of the greatest importance, and membership in the Communist Party or at least the Communist Youth is a primary requirement. In the staff course only those are accepted who have a record of being Party functionaries over a period of years. In addition those are looked for who already have some special knowledge, such as doctors, pharmacists or industrial chemists.
7. The Chemical Center is located at the edge of Păgăraș. Its buildings are on both sides of the road leading to Brașov. On the north the area is bordered by the Păgăraș-Sibiu railroad. The area is surrounded by barbed wire and closely guarded. The northern section of the installation includes a staff building, a radio building, three quarters buildings of the research battalion, and an assembly building. The last contains a printshop where the printing of the center is done. South of the road there are more quarters buildings, a mess hall and several underground storehouses. There is a second group of buildings where officers in the two more advanced courses are quartered. Each quarters building contains its own laboratory.
8. The storehouses and garages hold about 20 tank trucks of the Soviet Molotov type, each with a capacity of 5,000 liters. Each is supplied with a motor compressor, and can be used as a sprinkling cart. There are also several heavy mortars and about thirty 57 mm guns. Gas protective material, such as gas masks, protective clothing and filters, are stored in a row of magazines. In a small building near the staff building are stored gas mines, gas grenades and chemical weapons. Material is issued from this depot for experiments. The main magazine holds a number of cylinders containing adhesives and thermite.
9. There is also a library of foreign technical literature, used by persons who have had some instruction in France or Germany.
10. For training purposes the Chemical Center is divided into the three training battalions mentioned, a battalion for chemical research, and a special section for the training of officers and noncommissioned officers of other arms, who take two- and three-month basic training courses.
11. The members of the three battalions of chemical officers have two months of basic infantry training. They are then pledged to secrecy before beginning chemical training. There are no special insignia or uniform.
12. Instructors are both officers and civilians. The latter are forbidden to move about the Center. They go directly to the rooms where they give instruction and when they are finished leave immediately. The officers are gas specialists from the old army, recalled to service when the Center was set up. Some examples are Capt /Stu/ Trandafir, who had charge of camouflage at Floesti during World War II, Capt /Ivan/ Banu, who gives instruction in suffocants. Banu is a doctor of chemistry. He also lectures on atomic weapons. In the spring of 1952 Banu was transferred to a building complex 12 km southeast of Păgăraș, which is closely watched, and it is said that uranium refining goes on there.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

13. The courses include: theoretical training, political training, chemical seminars, laboratory research, training in geography, and special secret courses.
14. The chemical courses include both organic and inorganic chemistry with special emphasis on coal tar derivatives. The courses in physics include elementary instruction in the behavior of gases, with basic training in acoustics, optics and electricity. The mathematical courses are about of the level of a secondary school. There is a strong course in meteorology. In the courses on war gases less attention is paid to their chemical constitution than to their uses, handling and protection against them. Gases treated include Yperite, Lewisite, nitrogen-iperite, tear gas, diphenyl-cyano-arsene, hydrocyanic acid, di-bromo di-chlorine*, phosgene and di-phosgene preparations. Smokes and incendiary preparations are studied, but always with the emphasis rather on handling than on chemical composition. (* Possibly an error for di-chlor.)
15. Bacteriological warfare is treated under the name of "physiopathology." Special emphasis is laid on the use of bacteriological warfare by the US Army, but as a practical matter there is less training in defense than in the cultivation of bacterial cultures. In the courses it is explained that this is the development of a method which was being used by the US on an island off the coast of Korea which fell into Communist hands. Types of culture are studied, optimum temperatures, virility of the cultures, etc. Films ~~showing~~ ^{showing} bacteria-delivering bombs as used by the US form part of the course. Some specialists in physiopathology are sent to the USSR for further instruction.
16. Decontamination of men and areas is taught only in a theoretical and very superficial manner. There is some instruction on the chemistry of decontamination.
17. The material and handling of protective clothing are taught together. There are two types of protective clothing in the Rumanian Army, both manufactured by the Soviets, a light type of impregnated material, and a heavy type resembling a diver's gear. Gas masks are also the subject of instruction, as well as protected rooms and bunkers fitted with filters and with oxygen equipment.
18. There is a course in topography like that in other military schools. The tactical courses place emphasis on the handling of chemical materials.
19. Each of the three battalions undertakes practical research with poisonous gases and the defense against them. They are carried out with mice. There are also qualitative and quantitative analyses of gases.
20. During the second year of training there are field exercises in the exercise area attached to the Center. One of the main objectives was the study of new smoke candles of Soviet production. The whole personnel of the Center took part. One of the battalions equipped with gas masks proceeded to de-gas an area which had been gassed by the other. The candle in question is about 20 cm in diameter and 15 cm high, with a wick, which gives off a thick, milky smoke on being lighted. Each candle can cover a front area of 100 m.
21. Participants in the secret special course are forbidden to make notes. While these courses are being given the guards at the lecture rooms are composed of members of the staff officers' battalion. The courses are given by Soviet officers in Russian, with a Rumanian translator. The courses concern chemical

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

warfare in Korea and the preparation of the Rumanian Army for chemical warfare. In these courses it is explained that the UN forces in Korea used both chemical and bacteriological warfare, employing di-bromo and di-bromo methyl alcohol; that the Soviet Union is well aware that the best defense is an attack, and that therefore it is necessary to be ready to handle chemical and bacteriological means of attack. Toward the close of the lecture the lecturer spoke of a new gas used by the UN troops in Korea, "tabun gas." He also spoke of the use of atomic materials, but in so confused a manner that no one could make sense of what he was saying.

22. In the political courses there were taught historical and dialectic materialism, military history, Party history, and the history of the Rumanian republic. Secondary school preparation is required for the course in historical and dialectic materialism. The Roman Catholic Church is regarded as enemy No. 1 of materialism; the Orthodox Church is regarded as somewhat more progressive, since certain Soviet priests have converted their churches into houses of culture. The course in military history begins with the Russian revolution and the underground movement during the time of the Tsars. As far as it concerns the Western Allies only their failures are discussed. Western aid to the Soviets is talked down. Students are taught that the technical quality of Soviet weapons is far above that of the Allied arms. A feature of this course is instruction in partisan tactics. A distinction is made between two types of partisans; those under army orders and those who work under the direction of the Party. Yugoslav and Greek partisans are cited as examples of the latter. There is a weekly lecture on the war in Korea, in which the technical superiority of the US troops is admitted, but contrasted with the moral superiority of the Communists. Party history is one of the main courses, with emphasis on the foundation of the Cominform Bureau.
23. Political and technical seminars are held weekly in order to test the progress of the students in all departments, but again with emphasis on political training.

- end -

25X1

SECRET